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FILE ONLY

# Captive Recalls Imprisonment Apart

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BOSTON, July 3 — A diagram of Lebanese politics drawn by a Shiite gunman provided the clearest indication to Robert G. Brown that he and three other Americans held separately from the majority of the hostages were under the control of the extremist Party of God, not the more moderate Amal militia.

On the diagram, his captor had printed the word Hezbollah, or Party of God, and then circled it four times, explaining to Mr. Brown that this was the group he belonged to. Mr. Brown, a 42-year-old medical salesman from Stow, Mass., kept the paper and said he planned to turn it over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help identify the terrorists who hijacked Trans World Airlines Flight 847 on June 14.

Mr. Brown said he noticed several other clues supporting the widespread speculation that the hijackers were from the pro-Iranian Party of God, and that it was this faction that took Mr. Brown and three other Americans off the plane separately.

He said that after an Amal officer visited the underground bunker where the four were being held, they were soon transferred to another location, "perhaps to hide us from Amal."

## Hijacker Appears With Gun

There were other frightening clues to their captors' identity. Two days before the release, one of the two original hijackers, a tall, thin man, appeared in the men's room with the same shiny 9-millimeter Czech automatic pistol

that had been used to kill Robert Dean Stethem, the young Navy diver.

"He asked if we recognized him," Mr. Brown recalled, "and when we said yes, he just smiled and left."

Last Saturday, after the four captives heard on the radio that the hostages had been released and were on their way to Damascus in what turned out to be a premature announcement, Mr. Brown was disconsolate. "Obviously the four of us did not go," he wrote in a diary he kept. "That makes us the insurance policy that the Israelis will release the prisoners in Israel."

Mr. Brown thinks this is one more indication that the Party of God had control over his group of four and had not yet agreed to their release.

## Unsure Why They Were Chosen

In a three-hour interview aboard the Lufthansa plane returning him to Boston, Mr. Brown, a tall, genial former Marine infantry captain who lost 10 pounds in captivity, offered a number of other fresh observations on the experience. Some were corroborated by Robert Trautmann Jr. of Laredo, Tex., another of the isolated group, who was interviewed separately in Wiesbaden, West Germany.

None of the four, both men said, were ever sure why they were selected to be taken off the airliner in a Beirut stop-over on June 15. Mr. Brown said he thought Jeffrey J. Ingalls, a sailor, was picked because of his military connection, and that two, Mr. Trautmann and Richard P. Herzberg, were chosen because their names sounded Jewish. But he thinks that he and a fifth man, Ar-

thur Targontsidis, who was released on June 18, were picked arbitrarily to fill up spaces in a waiting truck.

"They called Ingalls, Trautmann and Herzberg by name," Mr. Brown reported. "But they just tapped me and Arthur, who was sitting in the row in front of me, on the shoulder."

After being taken from the plane, the men were driven to a house only three or four minutes from the airport, then into an underground parking lot below an apartment building.

They were not blindfolded, and Mr. Brown said that with his military training in map reading, he had helped roughly locate the building for the F.B.I. in Wiesbaden. "They told us to cover our faces with our hands," he said, "but I peeked."

When they were asked their religion, Mr. Trautmann said he was Roman Catholic and Mr. Brown said he was Protestant, but Mr. Herzberg, who is Jewish, said he was an atheist, according to Mr. Brown. "That confused our captors," he recalled, "and they asked, 'What's that?'"

"But they never gave us the impression they were out to single out Jews," Mr. Brown said. In fact, he reported that one day when Mr. Herzberg complained that he was missing his wife's birthday, the captors returned with a large birthday cake.

The men were never physically threatened or mistreated, Mr. Brown and Mr. Trautmann agreed, and they had plenty of food. But the underground bunker was hot during the day and cold at night, with no sheets or blankets to cover their bare mattresses.

After the first week, the group was transferred to the second floor of a house where they were much more comfortable. But the worst moment of the whole crisis came for Mr. Brown when his captors gave him a copy of Newsweek in which he read that the

State Department had told his wife that he believed he was dead.

"I had tried to be the tough guy, to keep the others' spirits up," Mr. Brown said. "I was older and had combat experience. But reading that brought tears to my eyes for the first time during the whole thing."